Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Aqueous~~ An aqueous mixture comprising:

A) at least one alkoxylate of the formula (I)

R^1-O-(CH_2-CHR^2-O)$_n$-CH_2-CH_2-OH formula (I)

or its phosphoric ester,

wherein

R^1 is a linear or branched C_6-C_{19}-alkyl radical,

R^2 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, and

n has an average value of 3 to 11;

B) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy carboxylic acid in simple form, ~~or as~~ a polyoligo hydroxy carboxylic acid ~~or salts thereof or~~ a salt of a hydroxy carboxylic acid in simple form, a salt of a polyoligo hydroxy carboxylic acid, a polyacrylate, ~~or~~ a phosphonate ~~or salts thereof or any mixtures therefrom,~~ a polyacrylate salt, a phosphonate salt and mixtures thereof

C) an aromatic sulphonation, ~~or~~ sulphination or sulphation product or salts thereof, and

D) an alkaline earth metal salt,

~~and also optionally further additives.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1 wherein

R^1 is a linear or branched C_8-C_{15}-alkyl radical,

R^2 is hydrogen or methyl,

n has an average value of 5 to 9;

B is citric acid, ~~or~~ sodium gluconate, ~~or~~ an α-hydroxy polyacrylate, ~~or~~ ATMP, HEDP, DTPMPA, EDTMPA, ~~or~~ PBTC, ~~or~~ salts of these phosphonates or ~~any~~ a mixture ~~therefrom~~ thereof,

C is cumenesulphonic acid, ~~or~~ naphthalenesulphonic acid ~~or an alkali metal/ammonium salts thereof~~ an alkali metal salt of cumenesulphonic acid, an alkali

metal salt of naphthalenesulphonic acid, an ammonium salt of cumenesulphonic acid, or an ammonium salt of naphthalenesulphonic acid, and

D is magnesium chloride, magnesium sulphate, calcium chloride or calcium sulphate.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein

R^1 is a linear or branched C_{12}-C_{15}-alkyl radical,

R^2 is hydrogen or methyl,

n has an average value of 6 or 7; ~~and~~

B is citric acid, ~~or~~ sodium gluconate, ~~or~~ DTPMPA or ~~any~~ a mixture ~~therefrom~~ thereof,

C is cumenesulphonic acid ~~or an alkali metal/ammonium salt thereof~~ an alkali metal salt of cumenesulphonic acid or an ammonium salt of cumenesulphonic acid , and

D is magnesium chloride or magnesium sulphate.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 3 wherein

B is a mixture of citric acid and sodium gluconate,

C is sodium cumenesulphonate, and

D is magnesium chloride.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1 comprising two different alkoxylates of the formula (I), A1) and A2)

A1) wherein

R^1 is a branched C_6-C_{14}-alkyl radical,

R^2 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, and

n has an average value of 3 to 11;

and

A2) wherein

R^1 is a linear or branched C_8-C_{19}-alkyl radical,

R^2 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, and

n has an average value of 3 to 10~~,~~

~~and wherein B) to D) are defined as mentioned~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 5 wherein in

A1) R^1 is a branched C_8-C_{12}-alkyl radical,

R^2 is hydrogen or methyl, and

n has an average value of 5 to 9;

and in

A2) R^1 is a linear or branched C_{10}-C_{17}-alkyl radical,

R^2 is hydrogen or methyl,

n has an average value of 4 to 8,

and

B is citric acid, ~~or~~ sodium gluconate, ~~or~~ an α-hydroxy polyacrylate or ATMP, HEDP, DTPMPA, EDTMPA, ~~or~~ PBTC or salts of these phosphonates or ~~any~~ a mixture ~~therefrom~~ thereof,

C is cumenesulphonic acid, ~~or~~ naphthalenesulphonic acid ~~or an alkali metal/ammonium salts thereof~~ an alkali metal salt of cumenesulphonic acid, an alkali metal salt of naphthalenesulphonic acid, an ammonium salt of cumenesulphonic acid or an ammonium salt of naphthalenesulphonic acid, and

D is magnesium chloride, magnesium sulphate, calcium chloride or calcium sulphate.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 5 ~~or 6~~ wherein

A1) R^1 is a branched C_{10}-alkyl radical,

R^2 is hydrogen, and

n has an average value of 7;

and in

A2) R^1 is a linear or branched C_{12}-C_{15}-alkyl radical,
R^2 is hydrogen,
n has an average value of 6,
and
B is citric acid, ~~or~~ sodium gluconate, ~~or~~ DTPMPA or ~~any mixture therefrom~~ a mixture thereof,
C is cumenesulphonic acid, ~~or an alkali metal/ammonium salt thereof~~ an alkali metal salt of cumenesulphonic acid or an ammonium salt of cumenesulphonic acid,
and
D is magnesium chloride or magnesium sulphate.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 5 ~~or 6~~ wherein
A1) is an alkoxylate of a linear or branched C_{10}-alcohol or ~~mixtures~~ a mixture thereof having on average 8 ethylene oxide units and 1 propylene oxide unit,
and
A2) is an alkoxylate of a linear or branched C_{12}-C_{15}-alcohol having on average 7 ethylene oxide units,
and
B is a mixture of citric acid and sodium gluconate,
C is sodium cumenesulphonate, and
D is magnesium chloride.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 7 wherein
B is a mixture of citric acid and sodium gluconate,
C is sodium cumenesulphonate, and
D is magnesium chloride.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, wherein said component A ~~or the sum total of A1 and A2~~ has a concentration of 1% to 40% by weight, said component B has a concentration of 1% to 20% by weight, said components C and D each have a concentration of 0.1% to 10% by weight, based on the ~~entire~~ aqueous mixture.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1, wherein the concentration of component A ~~or of the sum total of A1 and A2~~ is 7% to 20% by weight, of component B is 2% to 10% by weight and each of components C and D is ~~in each case~~ 0.4% to 5% by weight, based on the aqueous mixture.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1, wherein the concentration of component A ~~or of the sum total of A1 and A2~~ is 14% to 20% by weight, of component B is 3% to 8% by weight and each of components C and D is ~~in each case~~ 0.6% to 2. 5% by weight, based on the aqueous mixture.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Mixture~~ An aqueous mixture according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12 wherein~~ further comprising a foam-suppressing ~~components~~ component and ~~defoamers~~ a defoamer ~~are used as additional additives~~.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ A textile pretreated with the aqueous mixture according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 13 to pretreat textiles~~ Claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for pretreating ~~textiles which comprises~~ a textile comprising the steps of

- setting a liquor ratio of 5:1 to 20:1, ~~preferably 8:1 to 10:1,~~
  adding the textile to a treatment bath
- in a first heating step, heating the treatment bath to 25-60°C, ~~preferably to 30-50°C,~~

- adding ~~0.5-8 ml/l, preferably 1-4 ml/l of a~~ an aqueous mixture in accordance with Claim 1 to the treatment bath in an amount of 0.5-8ml/l,
- adding ~~1-20 ml/l, preferably 2-3 ml/l of~~ hydrogen peroxide 50% to the treatment bath in an amount of 1-20 ml/l,
- adding ~~1-10 ml/l, preferably 1.5-3.5 ml/l of~~ aqueous sodium hydroxide solution 50% to the treatment bath in an amount of 1-10ml/l,
- ~~further~~ in a second heating step, heating the treatment bath to 8-130°C, ~~preferably to 95-100°C,~~
- holding ~~this temperature~~ the temperature of the second heating step for 15-90 minutes, ~~preferably for 40-50 minutes~~,
- cooling and dropping the treatment bath,
- optionally hot rinsing the textile at 50-100°C, ~~preferably at 70-90°C,~~
- optionally cold rinsing the textile and
  optionally dropping the rinsing bath.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for cellulosic or cellulosic-synthetic fibre blend pretreatment comprising steps of
- providing a vessel;
- providing a cellulosic or cellulosic-synthetic fibre blend substrate;
- providing a water bath;
- adding an aqueous mixture according to Claim 1,
- optionally adding an active amount of an activating compound selected from the group consisting of salts of organic acids, organic amine derivatives, transition metal salts or transition metal complexes,
- adding an active amount of caustic soda to obtain a starting bath having an alkaline pH;
- adding an active amount of hydrogen peroxide to the starting bath;
- heating the ~~water~~ starting bath to a temperature of 80-130°C ~~during a time period~~;
- optionally cold or warm rinsing the cellulosic or cellulosic-synthetic fibre blend substrate , and

- optionally adding catalase to the cellulosic or cellulosic-synthetic fibre blend substrate.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to Claim 16, wherein the aqueous mixture is added in a concentration of 0.5-4 g/l.

18. (New) A process according to Claim 15, wherein the liquor ratio is 8:1 to 10:1.

19. (New) A process according to Claim 15, wherein the heating step further comprises heating the treatment bath 30-50°C.

20. (New) A process according to Claim 15, wherein the amount of the aqueous mixture added to the treatment bath is 1-4ml/l.

21. (New) A process according to Claim 15, wherein the amount of hydrogen peroxide added to the treatment bath is 2-3ml/l.

22. (New) A process according to Claim 15, wherein the amount of sodium hydroxide solution 50% added to the treatment bath is 1.5-3.5ml/l.

23. (New) A process according to Claim 15, wherein in the second heating step the temperature is 95-100°C.

24. (New) A process according to Claim 15, wherein the temperature of the second heating step is held for 40-50 minutes.

25. (New) A process according to Claim 15, wherein the hot rinsing step occurs at a temperature between 70 and 90°C.

26. (New) A textile pretreated in accordance with the process of Claim 15.

27. (New) A cellulosic or cellulosic-synthetic fibre blend substrate pretreated in accordance with the process according to claim 16.